

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

IN RE JUUL LABS, INC., MARKETING,
SALES PRACTICES, AND PRODUCTS
LIABILITY LITIGATION

This Document Relates to:
ALL CLASS ACTIONS

Case No. 19-md-02913-WHO

**DECLARATION OF DENA C. SHARP IN
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION
FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF
ALTRIA CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

DATE: TBD
TIME: TBD
LOCATION: TBD

HON. WILLIAM H. ORRICK III

1 I, Dena C. Sharp, declare as follows:

2 1. I am a partner of Girard Sharp LLP and am admitted to practice in the Northern
3 District of California. I am one of the Court-appointed co-lead counsel in this matter. I make this
4 declaration based on my own personal knowledge. If called upon to testify, I could and would
5 testify competently to the truth of the matters stated herein.

6 2. I submit this declaration in support of Class Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary
7 Approval of Altria Class Action Settlement.

8 3. Attached as **Exhibit 1** is a true and correct copy of the Altria Class Action
9 Settlement Agreement.

10 4. Attached as **Exhibit 2** is a true and correct copy of the Altria Plan of Allocation.

11 5. Attached as **Exhibit 3** is a true and correct copy of the Altria Long Form Notice.

12 6. Attached as **Exhibit 4** is a true and correct copy of the summary Postcard Notice.

13 7. Attached as **Exhibit 5** is a true and correct copy of the email notice to be sent to
14 JUUL purchasers for whom JLI has email addresses and purchase data.

15 8. Attached as **Exhibit 6** is a true and correct copy of the email notice to be sent to
16 identified Class Members other than direct purchasers, *i.e.*, Class Members for whom the
17 Settlement Administrator obtained an email address because they filed a claim or sought to opt
18 out of the JLI settlement.

19 9. Attached as **Exhibit 7** is a true and correct copy of the telephone script to be used
20 for the automated number where class members can receive additional information (and talk to a
21 live representative, if they so desire).

22 10. Attached as **Exhibit 8** is a true and correct copy of the template online claim form
23 for class members with and without direct purchases from JLI (which, as modified, will also be
24 the general form and content of paper claim forms should any Settlement Class Member request
25 one).

26 11. Attached as **Exhibit 9** is a true and correct copy of exemplar internet banner ads.

27 12. Attached as **Exhibit 10** is a true and correct copy of a script for the video to be
28 used for certain online publications.

1 13. Attached as **Exhibit 11** is a true and correct copy of a press release that provides
2 information concerning the Settlement and the process for submitting claims.

3 14. Attached as **Exhibit 12** is Class Plaintiffs' Proposed Order Granting Preliminary
4 Approval of the Altria Class Action Settlement.

5 15. Attached as **Exhibit 13** is a draft Proposed Order Granting Final Approval of the
6 Altria Class Action Settlement that, if the Court grants Preliminary Approval, we anticipate
7 submitting in connection with the Motion for Final Approval.

8 16. Attached as **Exhibit 14** is a chart summarizing information identified in District
9 Guidelines ¶ 11 regarding past distributions in class settlements.

10 17. On May 18, 2020, this Court appointed Thomas J. Perrelli as Settlement Master.
11 Dkt. 564. The Altria Class Action Settlement now before the Court is the result of extensive
12 discussions conducted under Mr. Perrelli's supervision, and was reached under during the MDL
13 bellwether trial of government entity San Francisco Unified School District. In those settlement
14 negotiations, I served as counsel for the proposed Settlement Class, with the other co-lead counsel
15 representing the interests of personal injury and government entity plaintiffs.

16 18. Although I have confidence in Class Plaintiffs' claims, a favorable outcome at trial
17 was far from assured. Class Plaintiffs would need to prevail on the interlocutory appeal of this
18 Court's class certification order, overcome numerous substantive defenses at trial, maintain class
19 certification through entry of a final judgment, and succeed on any post-judgment appeals.
20 Defendants and their experts were prepared to contest every theory of liability and measure of
21 damages. There are, for example, substantial disputes as to whether Altria was a part of an
22 enterprise that engaged in a pattern of fraud and violated RICO, to what extent and in what time
23 frame Altria could be found liable, and the quantum of damages. Both sides believed they had
24 persuasive facts to support their positions, and there are limited precedents available regarding the
25 parties' competing theories. At trial, competing experts would have offered conflicting opinions
26 as to Altria's liability, the methods of calculating damages, and ultimately what damages, if any,
27 should be awarded.
28

1 19. After a competitive bidding process, Class Counsel previously selected Epiq to
2 administer the class notice relating to the JLI Class Action Settlement, as well as the certification
3 and pendency of the class claims against Altria. Before engaging Epiq to serve as the proposed
4 Settlement Administrator for the Altria Settlement, we obtained a further cost estimate from Epiq
5 which, in my experience and that of other members of the PSC and based on review of
6 comparable estimates, is reasonable, particularly in light of Epiq's resources and relevant
7 experience in this case and others. Epiq has developed a detailed plan for published and direct
8 notice to class members. Epiq has also already processed and cleaned the data reflecting JLI's
9 online sales, and has implemented the JLI Settlement notice plan, and received claims, opt outs,
10 and other communications from Class Members in connection with the JLI Settlement. Given its
11 ongoing work in connection with the JLI Settlement and the fact that we anticipate that the
12 distribution of funds to class members will occur in a single set of distributions of the two
13 settlement funds, Epiq is the most sensible choice for administration of the settlement. Choosing
14 another administrator at this time would only lead to duplication of work and additional expense.

15 20. Pursuant to District Guidelines ¶1(g), I estimate, based on my experiences with
16 recent settlements in other comparable consumer and economic loss class actions and the input of
17 the Class Settlement Administrator, that between 200,000 and 2,000,000 Class Members (up to
18 15% of the Class) may receive payments.

19
20 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 26th
21 day of July, 2023 in San Francisco, CA.

22
23 /s/ Dena C. Sharp

24 Dena C. Sharp

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on July 27, 2023 I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will automatically send notification of the filing to all counsel of record.

By: /s/ Dena C. Sharp
Dena C. Sharp